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Official paper of Clatsop county and the City of Astoria.

### WEATHER.

- ◆ Western Oregon and Washington—Showers.
- ◆ Western Oregon and Washington—Showers.
- ◆ Eastern Oregon and Washington—Showers and thunder storms.

### WE INVITE INSPECTION.

The miserable details that have been published during the past week all over the world as to the foul conditions existing in the great packeries of Chicago, accentuate the wonderfully different circumstances that obtain in the great canneries of the Columbia river valley, and indeed all over the Pacific Coast.

As a primary proposition there is nothing so filthy to sight and smell as illy-treated fish; it is one of the worst, all-round things for foul reaction in the world, and the least neglect produces shocking results. But we challenge the inspection, opportune, or inopportune, of the most exacting commission on earth, at any of the canning plants of this coast and declare, in advance, with the utmost confidence, that no symptom of complaint will be forthcoming. Considering the huge volume of raw material handled, the plants at which salmon are packed are among the cleanest institutions in the commercial world, and so impress every visitor, no matter when, nor whence, he comes.

At this juncture, when the world is disgusted with the dreadful tales of the eastern establishments, it is a pleasure for everyone out here to reflect upon this point in favor of our own great industry, and we hasten to acknowledge it for the benefit of those who may carry the conviction wrought through the Chicago reports to other packing plants, upon the heedless basis of "a general principle," as we have no desire to travel in that class.

The sight of a great, cool cannery, from its slip, or sea-door, where the fish are received, to the export door whence it goes out into the world a few hours later, would be a revelation to the gentlemen who have been forced to tell the sickening story of Chicago's unutterable filth; the clean, wholesome, well-scrubbed tables, from the slicing trough to the canning table; the well-soured mechanism that carries the fruit of the net through all its gradations of treatment; the constant streams of clear running water that purify everything as they pass over, under, around, and through the system; the ready and constant disposal, by fire and water, of the debris that is never allowed to accumulate even for a moment; the absence of all smell save that of the fish as it leaves the fishing boat to enter the cannery; the perfect orderliness; invariable, regular and abundant flushing of every nook and cranny of the great floors, hourly, and the never-failing removal of refuse at every turn of the packing program, leaves the business here, with the full and ultra credit of being the premier cult in commercial packerage, and at the same time gives assurance to the world-wide consumer, that the salmon he eats from the Pacific can, is as pure, and

clean and wholesome, as the best-scrutinized and supervised morsel that enters his mouth; and if he has any lingering fear, or doubt or dubious idea whatever, he, and all mankind, has, a standing invitation to come at any hour, of any, day in any season and note for himself that we have told the simple truth. And we are glad to tell it!

### ASTORIA'S BIGGEST PROBLEM.

The vital issue confronting the citizens of Astoria in regard to the projected seawall, are of the primary sort, and are, in the main: Do we need a seawall? And if we need it, to what extent, and of what sort, shall it be?

The flat idea laid down at the meeting of Friday, that the filled land lying back of the wall will not maintain a foundation for brick and concrete buildings without going to the old subaqueous depth, and sinking piles for the laying of it, would seem to vitiate the real value of the seawall to start with. Why build a seawall if the same building conditions are to exist that exist now? Will the improvement be an improvement if we must cling to the life-long customs that have prevailed without it? The engineers invited down here to confer on the proposition, made this open declaration as to the necessity for piling under the heavier structures and their word is not to be doubted upon a preliminary issue like this, or their subsequent deductions will be of little avail in the working out of the enterprise.

Second, to what extent shall the wall be built? Here again there seems to be a hitch. Some think the first section should not cover any territory other than that lying between the Parker House and the O. R. & N. docks; while others maintain the whole front should be absorbed in the undertaking.

This may be easily settled at such time as the city can coalesce with the A. & C. people for the building of the whole system; for unless they operate together, the matter had far better be abandoned. Their interests are identical in every way; the line of work is the same throughout the proposed course of the wall; the character of material to be used is a comprehensive question for both; and indeed, unless there is a complete and uniform agreement between the two, the work will be a failure, since two walls are absolutely out of the running, and that is what any divergence of opinion between them would mean.

The wall should be of stone; it is a permanent improvement, not a transitory thing to be renewed at stated periods, and at amplified cost every time it is done over. And besides, the building of stone would lend a significance of perpetuity and commercial importance, that will favorably impress the buyer of the bonds that must be uttered to pay for it.

The committee is doing good work so far as it has gone; but it will do the real thing when it goes into deliberate and friendly conference with the railroad people, and reaches a basis of united action that shall simplify the whole situation for all concerned; for, as it stands today, the interests of neither can be ignored without threatening the fulfillment of the project.

### EDITORIAL SALAD.

J. Pierpont Morgan has purchased the noted art collection of Rudolph Kann for five and a fifth millions. Which reminds us that some Kann and some can't.

The radicals in Panama have but small chance when the government controls the election boxes and Uncle Sam says they mustn't kick up a fuss about it.

Few men have received more pointed attention from women than Reed Smoot; fifty thousand are said to have petitioned for his resignation.

No newspaper in the world will now consider itself equipped for sudden emergencies without a portrait cut of King Alfonso.

It is believed that, if Mr. Morgan insists the Metropolitan Art Museum will not object even to Kann goods.

The farther W. J. Bryan gets from his own country the more highly is he honored—and vice versa.

A philosophical fellow holds that small brothers can tell a man a lot about their sister that he will never find out till he marries her.

Curious, but no influenced railroad agents have been found with Standard Oil stock on their persons!

No candidate yet for the democratic presidential nomination! Get out the drag net.

Should Baer be elevated to that railroad presidency would he consider that, too, an act of Providence?

### BLACK GOVERNORS.

A Curious Piece of Old Time Connecticut History.

A book little known even to collectors of Americana is a volume entitled "Hartford in the Olden Time; Its First Thirty Years," by Scaeva, which was edited by W. M. B. Hartley and published at Hartford in 1853. There is a chapter in this book entitled "The Black Governors of Connecticut," the very title of which will excite the surprise of most intelligent people even in Connecticut, who have never heard of any black governors in the Nutmeg State except the governors of an opposite political faith, who were, of course, politically black. The title, however, is explained and justified by a little explanation. Before the Revolution and down to a period as late as 1820 it was the custom for the negroes living in the state to hold an election on the Saturday succeeding the regular election day, choosing one of their number as governor. Sometimes, however, no election was held, the retiring governor assigning his office to another. The man chosen in either case was usually "of imposing presence, strength, firmness and volubility, quick to decide, ready to command and quick to dog." He appointed a staff of military and judicial officers, who executed his orders in all matters pertaining to colored people, especially questions pertaining to morals, manners and ceremonies.

The fact that he had no legal status in the province or state did not at all trouble him or his subjects, and he appears to have exercised a very real power, nearly always on the side of morality and justice. The justices of the peace appointed by these black governors were, as a rule, extremely severe in punishing people of their own color who transgressed the law. So generally was this recognized by the whites in colonial times that when a slave committed some offense it was the custom to turn him over to the black justice for punishment. Such a culprit always fared much worse than if he had been tried by the regular courts.

Among the more notable colored men who held the office of governor were: Quaw, a negro belonging to Colonel George Wyllis; Peleg Nott, who belonged to Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth; Boston, belonging to Mr. Nicholas; John Anderson and Cuff, who held the office for ten years. After the abolition of slavery in Connecticut the custom fell into disuse.

### FACTS ABOUT MEXICO.

There are ten volcanoes in Mexico. Mexico has a coast line of over 6,000 miles. Mexico has vast deposits of onyx and marble. Mexico has fifty-nine lakes and great lagoons.

The area of Mexico is about 750,000 square miles. Cotton factories in Mexico employ over 25,000 people.

The "valley" of Mexico is 7,500 feet above the sea level.

Mexico is about ten times larger than Great Britain.

The traveler in Mexico is seldom out of sight of mountains.

The rainy season generally lasts from May to September.

There are probably 300,000 men employed in the mines of Mexico.

Mexico is the richest mineral country in the world, not excepting Peru.

The largest state is Chihuahua, with an area of nearly 90,000 square miles.

Quantities of sulphur are mined in the craters of several extinct volcanoes.—Modern Mexico.

### Taught Him How to Die.

It was after seeing Henry Irving act as Becket that a young Japanese studying theology in this country said to a friend who took him: "I thank you very much for making me remain. You know, I may have to suffer some day for holding to what I believe to be the truth, and I have often thought that I would never be able to play my part in the right way. From now on I shall never be troubled with such a thought, for when the time comes I shall remember that Henry Irving has taught me how to die. Yes, I should like to die like Becket." Thus did Becket in the flesh and Tennyson, the dramatist, and Irving, the actor, nerve the potential Christian martyr that may be.—Boston Transcript.

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### DRANK TO SAVE A CITY.

A Legend of the Quaint Old Town of Rothenburg.

Much is made of the legends and history of the quaint mediaeval town of Rothenburg, as is natural where they lay so much stress on their past glories, says the Metropolitan Magazine. The shop windows are full of big glass cups with painted figures of the emperor, the seven electors and other worthies (souvenirs for the unwary tourist), and in some of the decorations of inns and wine rooms a man is pictured drinking out of such a cup, accompanied by verses alluding to a Georg Nusch and to a Meister-Trunk.

We wondered about it till we found a local guide book with the explanation. It seems this Nusch by his famous drink saved the town several centuries ago. He was a senator and a son of the innkeeper of the Rother Hahn (Red Cock), which is still standing a little way down the street here. Many of the inns are hundreds of years old and are run under the same names they have always borne. Well, during the wars of the reformation this was a Protestant town and was besieged and taken by Tilly after a spirited resistance. He entered the place followed by his train and proceeded to the Rathaus, where the burghermeister and the senators were assembled, and in the barbarous style of those days ordered that they all be beheaded.

Then there was such wailing and entreaties from the wives and children and townspeople that he finally said he would be content with the death of four, but the rest would not listen to this and said all of them or none, or something to that effect, and the burghermeister was sent off to get the executioner. At length, when everything was in a great uproar, Tilly called for drinks, and a trembling barmaid brought him a great stirrup cup of Tauber wine. He drank from it and passed it on to some of his men, and still it wasn't emptied when suddenly struck by its size and being in a better humor from the wine he said in jest:

"If any man of you can empty this full cup at one draft I will show mercy and spare the town."

At this all the people stood and stared, not one daring to undertake it (the cup held three quarts) until Nusch, thinking that would at least be the pleasanter death and probably used to drinking a great deal, said he would try it. Everybody was breathless with suspense, fearing he would give out before emptying the cup, but on and on he went till the last drop was drained. He had only strength enough left to hand the cup to Tilly and say, "Thy promise," when he fell fainting to the ground. He recovered in a few days, however, and lived to be eighty. And Tilly kept his word.

### The First Submarine Boat.

In 1644 Van Drebbel, a Dutchman, built in London a submarine boat which could contain twelve rowers as well as some passengers, and on one occasion James I. descended beneath the Thames in the vessel. The inventor is said to have discovered a liquid possessing the important property of rendering the air in the confined space under hatches suitable for repeated inhalation and thus to prolong the time which could be spent under water. The first submarine boat used in warfare, 1777, was built by David Bushnell in Connecticut. It was managed by one man, who could remain thirty minutes under water. Fulton, a New Yorker, made one to hold eight men, who could be supplied with air for eight hours under water.

### Fans as Dustpans.

In Japan the uses of the fan are many and various. They are wielded by men, women and children, by soldier and civilian. A butterfly shaped fan in the hands of the umpire at a wrestling match is made to convey all sorts of messages, which are promptly understood and attended to by the combatants. Grain is winnowed by the farmer with a stout fan, and the domestic servant not only fans the embers of a charcoal fire, but she also uses her coarse paper fan as a dustpan for taking up the ashes.

It is a pleasure to note that baseball is being introduced in England; also Brooklyn.

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